Atty Docket: 678-735 (P10196)

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-7 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 5 being the

independent claims. Claim 3 is cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under

35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitama (U.S. Patent No.: 6,175,728 A1) in view

of Ratto (US Patent No. 6,993,091). Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Mitama in view of Ratto and further view of Kataoka et al. (JP 10247953).

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1 and 5 are amended to recite the limitations of cancelled Claim 3,

which the Examiner indicated would be allowed if written in independent form including all of

the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 2, 4 and 6-7 depend from and contain all the elements of amended Claims 1 and

5. Claims 2, 4 and 6-7 are distinguishable from Khlat and Ratto in the same manner as Claims 1

and 5.

The application as now presented, containing Claims 1-2 and 4-7 are believed to be in

condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal

interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact

Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

No. 39.310

Attorney for Applicants

THE FARRELL LAW FIRM, PC

333 Earle Ovington Boulevard, Suite 702

Uniondale, New York 11553

TEL: (516) 228-3565

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